

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Chestnut Creek in Carroll County, Grayson County and Galax, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Courtroom at the Public Safety Building, 353 N. Main Street, in Galax, Virginia, on July 21, 2005 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the start of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ is working to identify pollutants that impair aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of Chestnut Creek that flows through Galax, and parts of Grayson County and Carroll County Virginia. The bacteria contamination exceeds water quality standards, which prohibits the recreational use.

The lower 14 miles of Chestnut Creek, from the Galax raw water intake near the city limits is impaired for both aquatic life use and for the recreational use due to bacteria violations. The upper 3.68 miles beginning at the confluence between Coal Creek and Chestnut Creek downstream to the raw water intake is "impaired" for bacteria violations. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform and e.coli. bacteria violations.

During the study, DEQ will determine the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and develop total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. DEQ will also determine the sources of bacteria contamination and develop a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by email, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW FACT SHEETS: Fact sheets are available on the impaired waters from the contacts below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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